

### **REMARKS**

The Office Action states that the Amendment filed on November 14, 2003, which was mailed on November 12, 2003, is not fully responsive to the Office Action of August 12, 2003 on the basis that the claims in the amendment do not correspond to the claims in the application. To eliminate any present or future discrepancies, claims 12 to 22 have been canceled herein without prejudice, and new claims 23 to 34 have been added herein. Claims 23 to 33 correspond to claims 11 to 21, which were added in the Preliminary Amendment filed on February 27, 2001 and which were renumbered as claims 12 to 22 as stated in paragraph 1 of the Office Action dated June 4, 2002. Claims 23 to 33 include all amendments made to claims 12 to 22 during the course of prosecution. Claim 34 corresponds to the claim numbered 22 in the Amendment filed on November 12, 2003.

The remarks contained in the Amendment filed on November 12, 2003 are believed to be fully responsive to all objections and rejections stated in the Office Action dated August 12, 2003, and such remarks contained in the Amendment filed on November 12, 2003 are expressly incorporated herein in their entirety by reference. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 23 to 34 are patentable over the references relied upon in the Office Action dated August 12, 2003 for the same reasons set forth in the Amendment filed on November 12, 2003 in support of the patentability of claims 12 to 22.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 3/18/04

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